The principles of this invention having been fully explained in connection with the foregoing, we hereby claim as our invention:

1. A computer implemented method for generating a diagnostic opinion for treatment of a dental patient, comprising the steps of:

providing a detailed series of questions to be asked of a patient,

providing a computer having at least one assessment function based on gathered physical condition and history information for a patient,

inputting responses from the patient to such questions into the computer,

generating in the computer a diagnostic opinion for the patient.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said diagnostic opinion generating step includes providing both specific and generalized prognoses relative to the patient as a result of the at least one assessment function.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said diagnostic opinion generating step includes risk assessing one or more of the patient's conditions.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the computer providing step includes providing at least one list-handling function whereby specific teeth may be identified as occurring in certain lists and be combined with others

having like properties.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the diagnostic opinion generating step includes providing one or more explanatory comments along with the opinion.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the diagnostic opinion generating step includes the generation of a report template whereby the height of rows that contain textual data within merged cells are autofitted.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said question providing step includes providing a plurality of questions and prompts concerning one or more of the areas of

(a) dental history,

(b) dental concern,

(c) radiographic analysis,

(d) supporting structure,

(e) radiographic temporomandibular joint,

(f) clinical findings of the head and neck,

(g) clinical findings of the temporomandibular joints,

(h) occlusal morphologic general findings,

(i) clinical findings as to tooth structure,

(j) direct restorative,

(k) indirect restorative,

(l) clinical findings for periodontal concerns, and

(m) dentofacial concerns.

8. A program for use with a computer in providing dental care comprising

a user interface for enabling the input of information relative to a dental patient,

a database for assigning points to certain answers and for weighting certain answers,

means for generating a diagnostic opinion for the dental patient.

9. The computer program of claim 8 wherein said opinion generating means includes various math functions and custom algorithms to populate at least one worksheet.

10. The computer program of claim 9 wherein said opinion generating means further includes means for generating one or more diagnostic opinions that include specific and generalized prognoses for the patient's conditions.

11. The computer program of claim 10 wherein said opinion generating means further includes means for risk assessing one or more of

the patient's conditions.

12. The computer program of claim 11 wherein the opinion generating means includes at least on list-handling function where by specific teeth may be identified as occurring in certain lists and be combined with other having like properties.

13. The computer program of claim 12 wherein the opinion generating means further includes means for providing one or more explanatory comments along with the opinion.

14. The computer program of claim 13 wherein the opinion generating means further includes means for generating a report template whereby the height of rows that contain textual data within merged cells are autofitted.

15. The computer program of claim 14 wherein the user interface includes a series of questions and prompts to be asked of a patient.

16. The computer program of claim 15 wherein the questions and prompts concern one or more of the areas of

(a) dental history,

(b) dental concern,

(c) radiographic analysis,

(d) supporting structure,

(e) radiographic temporomandibular joint,

(f) clinical findings of the head and neck,

(g) clinical findings of the temporomandibular joints,

(h) occlusal morphologic general findings,

(i) clinical findings as to tooth structure,

(j) direct restorative,

(k) indirect restorative,

(l) clinical findings for periodontal concerns, and

(m) dentofacial concerns.

17. A computer program, such program residing on a computer-readable medium, for health management, comprising instructions for causing a computer to

prompt the acceptance of health information relative to a patient by a health care provider,

accept health history, medical information and other considerations relevant to treatment of the patient concerned,

utilize at least one algorithm based on the accepted patient information for generating a diagnostic opinion for that patient.

18. The computer program of claim 17 wherein said algorithm utilizing step includes risk assessing the patient's condition.

19. The computer program of claim 18 wherein the application is to a dental patient by a dentist or a dental practitioner.

20. The computer program of claim 19 wherein the health information inputted concerns one or more of the areas of

(a) dental history,

(b) dental concern,

(c) radiographic analysis,

(d) supporting structure,

(e) radiographic temporomandibular joint,

(f) clinical findings of the head and neck,

(g) clinical findings of the temporomandibular joints,

(h) occlusal morphologic general findings,

(i) clinical findings as to tooth structure,

(j) direct restorative,

(k) indirect restorative,

(l) clinical findings for periodontal concerns, and

(m) dentofacial concerns.

21. The computer program of claim 20 wherein the algorithm

utilizing step includes at least one list-handling function whereby specific teeth may be identify as occurring in certain lists and be combined with others having like properties.

22. The computer program of claim 21 wherein the diagnostic opinion that is generated includes explanatory comments along with the opinion.

23. The computer program of claim 22 wherein the diagnostic opinion includes a report template whereby the height of rows that contain textual data within merged cells are autofitted.